

The Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) held the Awards Committee meeting on January 28, 2026. The committee met virtually. The following business was conducted:

I. Call to Order

Chair Julie Pile welcomed the committee members and guests viewing the livestream to the meeting. The meeting was called to order at 2:35 P.M. ET.

II. Roll Call

Julie Pile asked for a roll call of members. The following members were present: Alfonso De Torres Núñez, Julie Pile, and Lu Young. No members were absent. GlyptusAnn Grider Jones stated that a quorum was present.

III. Robinson Award for Diversity and Equity in Public Education

A. Review of Criteria for Selecting the Recipient of the Robinson Award for Diversity and Equity in Public Education

Chair Pile provided an overview and brief discussion of the criteria for the Robinson Award. She said that “each year, the KBE grants this award to a Kentuckian or a Kentucky organization demonstrating extraordinary efforts and contributions in the area of educational diversity and equity.” She also stated that “criteria for receiving this award includes, but is not limited to: successful efforts in closing socioeconomic and/or racial achievement gaps, significantly improving student learning, student achievement, or other measured outcomes among students of color or economically disadvantaged students.”

B. Review and Discussion of Nominations for the Robinson Award for Diversity and Equity in Public Education

Committee members were asked to review the candidates prior to the meeting using a provided rubric. Chair Pile led members in a review and discussion of nominations. All members positively commented on the qualifications of candidates 3 and 5.

C. Approve Recommendation of Individual(s) as the Recipient of the Robinson Award for Diversity and Equity in Public Education

The committee determined that its top applicants were candidates 3 and 5. A vote was necessary to bring the recommendation before the full board for consideration of approval at its February 4, 2026 regular meeting. Based on the candidates’ extraordinary efforts and contributions in the area of educational diversity and equity, Chair Pile asked the

committee to entertain a motion to approve candidates 3 and 5 as the recipients of the 2026 Robinson Award for Diversity and Equity in Public Education. The motion was made by Alfonso De Torres Núñez and seconded by Lu Young. The motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote.

IV. Adjournment

Chair Pile thanked everyone for their time and a productive meeting. Chair Pile requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made by Lu Young and seconded by Alfonso De Torres Núñez. The motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote. The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 P.M. ET.